

Blind Brook PTA
General Meeting
Thursday, June 16, 2022
7:00pm
Blind Brook MS/HS IMC (In Person) and Via Zoom
MINUTES

I. Superintendent Update and Q&A: Dr. Colin Byrne

- A. This week's Board of Education meeting honored retirees and tenure recipients. It was preceded by a reception and grand opening dedication of the Fab Lab, named for Glenn Schuster, a former BOE member.
- B. The construction project continues to move forward.
 - i. Planned update July 5th
 - ii. We're still on track to have cafetorium/kitchen open in September.
- C. Next week's graduation/moving up ceremonies will take place on the football field on Thursday.
- D. Next year, the HS and MS will have new schedules.
 - i. It's the first year the MS will have a schedule focused on their own age and development.
 - ii. The MS will introduce an Advisory session for all of the kids. Students will have an adult they are connecting with regularly.
- E. The RSS summer program is very well subscribed.
- F. **Q: Regarding the email on BoE committees - could you talk about the committees, are they in session, are you re-starting some of them?**
 - i. We've had 7-8 standing committees for many years.
 - ii. The Board wanted to make sure everyone knew we had these committees, and to reach out to see if anyone new wants to join the committees.
 - iii. The same people have been involved for a while. We wanted to raise the general knowledge that if you're interested you're welcome.
- G. **Q: Has the protocol for dropping off a child's forgotten item at school changed? This week, I was told that parents need to leave items outside the door, and the security guard will pick things up later. A:** I haven't heard of a new procedure. It's unusual to introduce a new procedure at the end of the school year, though we do want everyone to be safe. Next year both the building will have a "man trap:" a sequence of two locked doors, with a security guard inside the first door to check in visitors. I'll look into your question.
- H. Thank you to Correy and Cameron and the PTA for everything you did to make sure things stayed afloat. Most of you in the room and the ones on the screen do most of the work. It's time, it's effort, I appreciate you all stepping up and helping. Thanks.

II. Acceptance of last month's minutes: Approved.

III. Co-Presidents' Report: Cameron Sager and Correy Stephenson

- A. Thank you to the federation for tonight's amazing snacks and sweets! Thank you to our liaisons, Ms. James, Ms. Zahl, and Mr. Donohue!
- B. All three Blind Brook graduation/moving up ceremonies are next Thursday 6/23. We could use lots more volunteers. We have one hour slots, from 8am to 7pm.
- C. Thank you to everyone on the board! Thank you to everyone who participated in fund raisers, and attended meetings. It has been another weird year, we weren't sure what we'd be able to do. We appreciate everyone's help keeping things going. We look forward to bringing back some cool things next year- like Fall Fest.

IV. Treasurer: Lynn Glantz

- A. Please send me any receipts for reimbursement asap.
- B. May 2022: Net Loss of \$(18,225)
- C. Major Revenues: Gross Profit/Loss \$15,831

Funtastic	\$1475
Plant Sale	\$4253
Cash	\$9835

- D. Expense Total: (\$34,056)

Plant Sale	\$11,303
Corbin	\$4266
Teacher Appreciation	\$6625
Circus	\$5575
Chess	\$1800

- E. Total Net Revenue (Loss): \$(18,225)

V. Ways and Means: Alicia Scala and Kate Marino

- A. Thank you to all who donated, volunteered, or purchased something this year!
- B. We are looking forward to handing over the reins to the new Events Team. They're going to be great! Good luck Linda, Shana, Karen, and our newest board member, Leah Mittelman.

VI. Programming: Amanda Gitkind and Shana Koransky

- A. The Harlem Wizards game earlier this month was awesome! We also made almost \$3000.
- B. The Kindergarteners had a fun event with Coach Christina.
- C. Olympic Night didn't fit in with the available dates in the district this spring- look for it next year.

VII. RSS Liaison: Rachel Lerner

- A. The 5th Grade Night of Music rehearsals are underway, with a performance planned for tomorrow evening.
- B. We look forward to more performances next year in the new Cafetorium space!
- C. 2nd graders invited parents to school this week to see their nonfiction projects. We look forward to having more parents come visit next year.
- D. Grade 1 will hold a Spring Fling on Tuesday, June 21st 9am in the New Gym.
- E. As a reminder, there is no school on Monday, in observance of Juneteenth.
- F. Next Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday will be half days, with dismissal at 11:30.
- G. Report cards will be posted next Friday, June 24th, at 3:10pm.

VIII. MS Liaison: Alex Boruch - Report by Seth Horowitz

- A. Thank you for your help with holding new programs at the Middle School this year! We hosted several evening events and provided a safe space to hang out.
- B. Thank you to parents who have been involved in committees like the Shared Decision Committee.
- C. Thank you for the 6th grade breakfast tomorrow and the 7/8 breakfasts next week.
- D. Thank you to Alex for being a great PTA liaison this year!
- E. Looking forward to working with Ms. Rigano next year!

IX. HS Liaison: Jen Savner

- A. The Senior Options Showcase was a huge success. It took place on June 8th. Seniors were stationed in the commons (think science fair). They explained and described their "work" experience. With posters, pictures and objects from their experience they were able to explain how they were involved.
- B. Prom was this past Friday. The weather was beautiful and everyone had a great time. Held at the Mamaroneck Yacht club.
- C. Regents are underway.

- D. Gearing up for graduation one week from today.
- E. Thanks to anyone who volunteered to help out with graduation. I have a group of students who will be helping, too.
- F. Thanks to the PTA who graciously provided funds so I could get each of our teachers the book “Teach Like A Pirate” by Dave Burgess.
- G. We posted the summer reading assignments for all grades on the HS website. Students in every English class have an assignment that needs to be completed. Thank you for helping support our summer reading!
- H. Happy Summer! I am sorry I could not be at the last 2 meetings! I have thoroughly enjoyed being the HS liaison!!

X. Pupil Services Liaison: Kiki DeBari

- A. If you are interested in joining the SEID community, please let me know, we’ll add you to the distribution list. It doesn’t necessarily apply to parents who have children who need accommodations, but you might need to be able to advocate for your child regardless.
- B. We held a SEID event in person at the Crawford Mansion on June 9th. In addition to SEID members, our two newly-elected Board of Education members attended, as did Dr. Byrne, Ms. Carpanzano, and Mr. Burg. It was a productive, collaborative meeting. We were able to set some goals for next year. Topics focused on communication and mental health.
- C. I am very excited to hand off to Mariela for next school year.
- D. Thank you for the opportunity to participate on the board in this role.

XI. Membership: Stacy Kapner-Lerch and Bree Candee

- A. No news

XII. Community Coalition: Debra Cohen, Community Coalition Coordinator and Monique Tricario, Student Assistance Counselor and Prevention Coordinator

- A. Community Coalition gave every senior a gift on the bus ride home from prom, including a guide to how to recognize signs of alcohol poisoning.
- B. Community Coalition will provide fans at graduation again.

XIII. New Business:

- A. We plan to resume alternating the scheduling of PTA meetings between morning and evening meetings next school year.

- B. If you are joining the PTA board, make sure to reach out to your predecessor to learn more about your role.
- C. Have a great summer, and thank you for a great year! We'll see you back here in the fall!

Attendance	
In Person	On Zoom
Colin Byrne Hedy Cardozo Mariela Cohen-Sabban Kiki DeBari Linda Itani Kerri James Rachel Lerner ToniAnne Rigano Alicia Scala Correy Stephenson	Nethra Bhatt Alexandra Boruch Catherine Meredith Dolgins Lynn Glantz Shari Goldsmith Katherine Hallissy Ayala Hillary Seth Horowitz Katie's iPhone Lisa Kanner Yvette Montvelisky Ann Sedrish